

H1
(cont)
density longitudinal ribs, as well as, to a process and an apparatus for producing the tampon.

At page 4, line 13, after "cross-section", please insert --(Fig. 2)--.

H2
At page 4, line 19, before "longitudinal", please delete "The" and insert instead --According to the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 2, the--.

H3
At page 4, line 21, before "Only", please insert the sentence ~~In another embodiment shown in Fig. 4, the longitudinal ribs~~ touch one another near their distal ends 20 and essentially obstruct the view of the longitudinal grooves 18.

At page 4, line 22, before "exposed", please delete "have been" and insert instead --are--, and after "uniform", please insert --radial--.

At page 4, line 23, before "relative", please delete "radial", and insert instead --during manufacture--.

At page 8, line 28, after "pressing faces", please delete "26", and insert instead --28--.

At page 8, line 30, after "(Fig.)", please delete "7" and insert instead --10--.

At page 9, line 10, before "exit orifice", please delete "of the".

In the Claims:

H4
1. (Thrice Amended) A tampon for feminine hygiene, comprising [an] a generally cylindrical absorbent portion having a generally cylindrical compressed fibre core from which longitudinal ribs extend radially outwardly, each of the ribs having a distal end, a proximal end attached to the fibre core, and a coarser capillary structure than the fibre core, each of the ribs being separated from adjacent ribs at the proximal end by longitudinal grooves, wherein the absorbent core is formed from an approximately cylindrical blank [which is shaped] having a circumferential surface obtained by winding up a length of tape-shaped nonwoven material, wherein [a] the circumferential surface of the blank is pressed radially inward at a first pressure [over an even number of mutually adjacent portions in] at an even number of at least six